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May 12, 1999

2589 '99 MAY 19 P4:39

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

To Whom It May Concern:

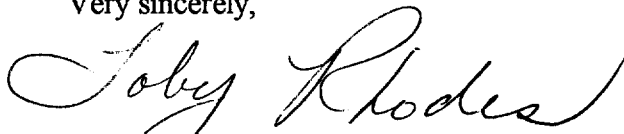
As a citizen of the USA., I am very concerned about the irradiation of food. The FDA should **retain the current labeling law** with the labels "Treated with Radiation" or "Treated by Irradiation" and the use of the Radura symbol. These labels should be prominently displayed and large enough to be easily read.

Initially the FDA concluded that irradiation was a "material fact" in the processing of food and therefore should be disclosed. This fact remains and so labeling should remain.

Irradiation causes chemical changes which are not evident and which are potentially hazardous as well as different texture and spoilage characteristics. Since this is a new technology with no long term studies of its affects on humans, **consumers have a right to know if this process has been used on their foods.**

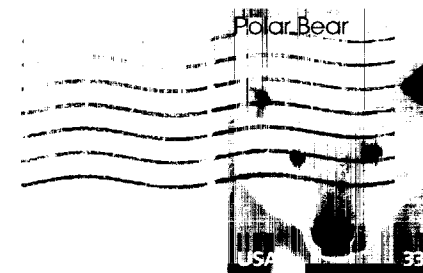
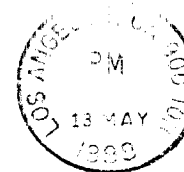
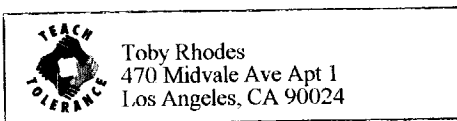
I urgently request that the FDA's labeling requirement not be permitted to expire.

Very sincerely,


Toby Rhodes

98N-1038

C2272



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Rockville, MD 20852

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